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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 9 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT Planes of Unknown Nationality Over Tirana

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1. Information has been received that, on or about the morning of 17 or 18 November 1949, about 50 planes of unknown nationality flew over Tirana. According to this information, the Albanian AA opened and continued firing for about three hours; the continued intermittent firing of the AA could be heard at a distance throughout the day. An unconfirmed rumor stated that these planes came from Greece.\*

2. [REDACTED] on 8 November 1949, 11 reconnaissance planes flew over Tirana; these were fired upon by three AA batteries. No information, however, was available [REDACTED] either confirming or denying the alleged flights of 17 or 18 November 1949.

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3. [REDACTED] on 17 November 1949, violent AA fire was directed against an unstated number and type of aircraft flying over Tirana; other AA fire reportedly took place on 6 November and, on 4 December 1949, at a plane flying over the city at an altitude of 3,000 meters.

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\* [REDACTED] Comment: No definitive value should be attached to this rumor until a check has been made. While it is quite possible that the above episode was a drill performance on the part of the Albanian AA, the presence, origin and type of planes involved has yet to be explained, as there has been no recent evidence pointing to the existence of an Albanian Air Force.

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